

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under §101

Claims 1 and 3-8 were rejected under §101.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the recitations are directed to a functional information recording medium readable by a playback unit for directing the operation of the playback unit. The claim recites specific items recorded on the recording medium. The recitations include button information operative for defining a button menu which allows the playback unit to execute an operation as for said content information, and play list information operative for defining reproduction sequence by the playback unit of said content information.

No new matter is entered by way of these amendments. The amendments ensure claim 1 satisfies §101 in that there is recited a patentable structure having recorded thereon information operative to have the playback unit realize its functionality.

Withdrawal of the §101 rejection is solicited. Should there be any remaining concerns as to §101, it is respectfully requested that an acceptable amendment be suggested by the Examiner.

Amendments

Claims 1, 9, 11, 12 and 17 have been amended to add that the item information is recorded independently and separately from

the sub item information.

The amendment is based on Figure 23.

New claims 28-30 have been added.

Substantive Rejections

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-17, and 25-27 were rejected as anticipated by SETOGAWA, EP 0898279.

Applicants respectfully disagree.

Item 7 of the Official Action states that "Examiner respectfully disagrees since Figure 4 of Setogawa shows that playlist information includes picture 10 (content information) and buttons (button information)". Please review Figure 4 and see that Figure 4 merely shows the example of display aspect and does not show the playlist information for defining reproduction sequence.

Attention is directed to the PGC (Program Chain) disclosed in Setogawa Figure 10 which indicates the reproduction sequence of picture 10 and buttons. Figure 10 shows that video 73 (content information) and sub-picture 71 (button information) are included in one cell 63 which is specified by the PGC 70. Namely, in Setogawa, one cell 63 (i.e. one PGC 70) simultaneously specifies both of the video 73 (content information) and the sub-picture 71 (button information). Therefore, Setogawa does not disclose the novel feature of claim 1 such that "item information for specifying the content information and sub item information

for specifying the button information are recorded independently and separately from each other".

Furthermore, Item 7 of the Official Action states that "in Setogawa, the plurality of buttons (reference number 2 in Figure 3 of Setogawa) can be displayed on only one fixed background image and cannot be displayed on another background image. However, the claims do not recite that the buttons can be displayed on another background image".

However, the feature of "the buttons can be displayed on another background image (another content information)" is technical effect obtained by the technical solution such that "the item information and the sub item information are recorded independently and separately from each other". The following example helps explain the differences between the present invention and Setogawa.

Example

The example of displaying the following four scenes, Scene #1 in which the button menu #1 is superimposed on the content #1, Scene #2 in which the button menu #2 is superimposed on the content #1, Scene #3 in which the button menu #1 is superimposed on the content #2, Scene #4 in which the button menu #2 is superimposed on the content #2, is explained.

Setogawa

According to the technical solution disclosed in Setogawa, PGC #1 for specifying the cell #1 which includes the

content #1 and the button #1 is needed, in order to display the Scene #1. Similarly, PGC #2 for specifying the cell #2 which includes the content #1 and the button #2 is needed, in order to display the Scene #2. Similarly, PGC #3 for specifying the cell #3 which includes the content #2 and the button #1 is needed, in order to display the Scene #3. Similarly, PGC #4 for specifying the cell #4 which includes the content #2 and the button #2 is needed, in order to display the Scene #4.

Since each of cells #1 to #4 includes the content and button as entity information and the content and button are specified by the unit of the cell in Setogawa, the button menu #1 included in the cell #1 specified by the PGC #1 is displayed (i.e. superimposed) only on the content #1 included in the same cell #1 specified by the same PGC #1. Namely, the button menu #1 included in the cell #1 specified by the PGC #1 cannot be displayed on the content #2 included in another cell #3 specified by another PGC #3 to display the Scene #3. On the contrary, on the content #1 included in the cell #1 specified by the PGC #1, only the button menu #1 included in the same cell #1 specified by the same PGC #1 can be displayed, and the button menu #2 included in another cell #2 specified by another PGC #2 cannot be displayed in order to display the Scene #2.

Therefore, according to Setogawa, when the display change from the Scene #1 to the Scene #2 (i.e. display change of button menu) is performed, not only the button menu #2 included

in the cell #2 specified by the PGC #2 but also the content #1 included in the cell #2 specified by the PGC #2 have to be read. As a result, it is impossible to easily change a plurality of button menu to reduce the load for display change.

Present Invention

According to the technical solution of the present invention, the item information #1 for specifying the content #1 and the sub item information #1 for specifying the button #1 are needed, in order to display the Scene #1. Similarly, the item information #1 for specifying the content #1 and the sub item information #2 for specifying the button #2 are needed, in order to display the Scene #2. Similarly, the item information #2 for specifying the content #2 and the sub item information #1 for specifying the button #1 are needed, in order to display the Scene #3. Similarly, the item information #2 for specifying the content #2 and the sub item information #2 for specifying the button #2 are needed, in order to display the Scene #4.

In the present invention, since (i) the content is specified by the item information independently and separately from the specification of the button menu, (ii) the button menu is specified by the sub item information independently and separately from the specification of the content, and (iii) the item information is recorded independently and separately from the sub item information, the button menu #1 specified by the sub item information #1 can be displayed on both of the content #1

specified by the item information #1 and the content #2 specified by the item information #2. On the contrary, on the content #1 specified by the item information #1, both of the button menu #1 specified by the sub item information #1 and the button menu #2 specified by the sub item information #2.

Therefore, according to the present invention, when the display change from the Scene #1 to the Scene #2 (i.e. display change of button menu) is performed, it is enough to read only the button menu #2 specified by the sub item information #2, and it is not needed to read the content #1 specified by the item information #1. As a result, it is possible to easily change a plurality of button menu to reduce the load for display change.

Considering the above technical solution and effect of the present invention, Setogawa does not disclose the novel feature of the present invention such that "the item information is recorded independently and separately from the sub item information."

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Having addressed all of the issues raised in the Official Action, the present amendment is believed to be fully responsive. Applicants appreciate the Examiner having indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement previously filed has been acknowledged and considered.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

Should there be any remaining outstanding issues, applicants would appreciate that the undersigned attorney be telephonically contacted so that these issues can be resolved and the case be passed to allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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